

SENATOR HEFNER: I have a question of the Chairman of the Committee on Committees. Is he here? Is Senator Chronister around?

PRESIDENT: Is Senator Chronister available?

SENATOR HEFNER: Or maybe the Speaker could answer this. How many senators do we have that have requested to go to Washington, D.C.?

SPEAKER NICHOL: As far as I know about 26 or something in that neighborhood. They may not have all spoken to me that want to be on it because I am not the one that chooses them, of course.

SENATOR HEFNER: I understand that the problem is that the Committee on Committees don't know who to send back and who not to. Is that correct?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Well, I don't know that they don't know because they would have to choose, of course. But it was my suggestion that we go beyond that. It is not necessary to vote on them. Simply, Senator Beutler and I would authorize it. But I wanted the body to know what we were doing rather than just doing it without letting the body know that we were choosing more than 20.

SENATOR HEFNER: Thank you, Senator. I believe, right at this time, that I would just support the resolution the way it was. I think a group of 20 senators will certainly show an impact back there. I think if we get too large a group going, they will be hard to handle, be hard to get around. So I would just suggest that this body leave it at 20 and let the Committee on Committees select those that want to go. I would also like to correct a few statements made. Some of them have said this is a bail out for the farmers. I certainly disagree with that. I don't think it is a bail out for farmers. I think that all we are asking is that the federal officials give us some consideration, help us find a solution to the many problems that agriculture has. We know that agriculture is having difficult economic times. It is affecting not only the farmer but it is affecting the merchants on the main streets of the small rural towns. Eventually it will affect some of the larger towns that we have in Nebraska, some of the larger cities. I think cities like Norfolk, Columbus and Scottsbluff are starting to feel